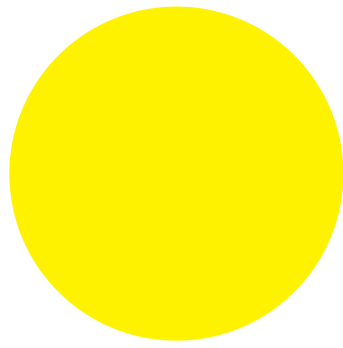


Hamas, Israel complete fourth captive-prisoner swap



7 >



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## **Pezeshkian: No power can bully us if we stand united**

Hassan Khomeini says people expect officials to exert courage in decisions

7 >

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (4th R) and his cabinet pay tribute to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Republic, in Tehran, Iran, on February 1, 2025. The grandson of Ayatollah Khomeini and the custodian of his mausoleum, Seyyed Hassan Khomeini (3rd R), accompanied the president. [president.ir](http://president.ir)

### Pitfalls of oversimplifying negotiations



By Ebrahim Beheshti  
Journalist

**OPINION  
EXCLUSIVE**

These days, the potential negotiations between Iran and the US have become a topic of polarization among supporters and opponents. This is not the first time, and it probably will not be the last.

Both sides, within the legal and customary frameworks, have the right to criticize, express opinions, and provide analysis, which can ultimately contribute to expert assessments of diplomatic talks, whether with the US or other countries.

However, it seems that the issue of Tehran-Washington negotiations is being noticeably oversimplified by both proponents and opponents. It is as if there is no historical precedent or experience, no obstacles to negotiations, and both sides can start talks and reach a deal as soon as they decide to.

Opponents take a firm stance, viewing any dialogue with the US as an outright betrayal of the Establishment and the people, as if the other side has already rolled out the red carpet for the Iranian negotiators, and the only remain-

ing issue is the composition of Iran's delegation! Moreover, this group of actors likely assumes that entering negotiations means striking an agreement, and given their negative perception of the JCPOA, they consider Tehran as a player destined to lose. Therefore, based on this analytical framework, they deem any negotiation with the US invalid.

On the other hand, some supporters of US-Iran negotiations believe that the new US administration will welcome talks with Iran under any circumstances, and the only remaining factor for starting talks and hammering out a deal is the will of the Iranian government. In this context, they see the government the sole and ultimate decision-maker. Some in this camp even assume that negotiations will lead to an agreement in a few days or weeks.

The will of both parties to adopt a diplomatic path to manage tensions and, if possible, settle or partially resolve differences is an important factor and, in fact, the beginning of a process. However, mere will is not sufficient. Even to kickstart negotiations, the existence of will is necessary but not sufficient. As President Masoud Pezeshkian said a while ago:

"Trump must first prove that he will keep his word. We will talk when he keeps his promises."

Page 7 >



Veep says gov't bent on ensuring energy supply for industry, mining

2 >



Embracing nature and tradition in Ravansar

3 >

### Achievements, regional impacts of Gaza cease-fire

**ANALYSIS  
EXCLUSIVE**

5 >



Persian Gulf Pro League: Foolad, Persepolis share the spoils in Kartal debut

6 >



Maduro calls for new beginning in bilateral ties with US

7 >

### Iran eyes attracting 15m tourists through int'l collaboration: **Minister**

8 >

